

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

Shinji NAGASHIMA : ATTN: NEW APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION :

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD
AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application

as follows:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, lines 1-2, delete "AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS" :

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Cross-Reference to Related Applications:

This application is a divisional application of, and claims priority to, Serial Number 09/611,664 filed June 6, 2000, and claims priority to Japanese Application No. JP 11-193671 filed July 7, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 11-16 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/611,664 ("the parent application").

The above preliminary amendment amends the title to be consistent with the elected claims. The above preliminary amendment also cancels Claims 11-16, elected in the parent application.

Furthermore, Claims 1-10 are drawn to a substrate processing method, which was identified as non-elected Group I in the Restriction Requirement made in the parent application. Therefore, the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. §121 applies so that it is prohibited to use "a patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction has been made . . . as a reference against any divisional application."¹

¹MPEP 804.01

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-10 is believed to be in order, and
an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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